

THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY

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LINDA HIDDEMEN BARONDESS
Executive Vice President

April 3, 2005

The Honorable Bill Nelson
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS), an organization of nearly 7,000 geriatrics' healthcare professionals who are specially trained in the management of care for frail, chronically ill older patients, appreciates your important role in introducing the "Advance Directives Improvement and Education Act of 2005."

Your recognition of the importance of advance care planning and leadership in crafting this legislation is greatly appreciated. Furthermore, we applaud your commitment to educating Americans about the need for these critical documents. We believe the enactment of this legislation will help provide resources, information and motivation for actively learning about end of life resources. Ultimately, we want to ensure that we honor patients and families' wishes.

Again, we thank you and your cosponsors and all those who join in the support of this important legislation. We hope to work with you to ensure passage of this important legislation. If you should have questions or comments on this letter, please contact Susan Emmer in our Washington office at (301) 320-3873.

Sincerely,



Meghan Gerety, MD, AGSF
President
American Geriatrics Society

